

1       **PROCESS FOR MAKING A CURVED PREFORM MADE FROM WOVEN**  
2                                   **COMPOSITE MATERIALS**

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4                                   **ABSTRACT**

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7   (036) The invention is a process for forming a preform for use in a structure  
8   having at least one curved portion of a specific length, including the steps of:  
9   1) providing a preform having cable of expanding in length threads in rows  
10   parallel to the direction of curvature over a length equal to the length requiring  
11   curvature, such that the gaps between each thread row are spaced from the  
12   gaps in the adjacent tread rows; and )2 stretching the portions of the preform  
13   requiring curvature in a sine-wave pattern.